

Language Selection Process at JSIS

2011 – 2012 School Year

Students Entering at KINDERGARTEN

- **If enrolled at JSIS prior to June 1st for the upcoming school year:**
 - Parents of children who have received confirmation from district of enrollment at JSIS for K will receive a JSIS welcome letter and a language preference form by the end of May.
 - Parents submit language preference form to JSIS office by the deadline indicated on the form indicating: language preference, if child has a sibling at JSIS, if fluent speaker of language.
 - Early June, those who marked fluent speaker will be contacted for a language fluency interview by a JSIS teacher to determine fluency as native or near native speakers.
 - Members of the JSIS Building Leadership Team (staff, parents) meet mid-June to assign students to language. We do this by:
 1. Balancing the total number of spots for boys/girls in each class based on students enrolled by June 1.
 2. Assigning students who passed the interview for fluent speakers.
 3. Assigning siblings to same language (if parents indicate they want the other language, the child is included in the lottery (#4)).
 4. Lottery: We draw names at random and assign remaining students based on recorded preference (space permitting*).
- **If enrolled at JSIS during the summer (June 1 – August 31):**
 - School staff (when back from summer vacation) will contact families to identify language preference. Language assignment will then be made at the end of the summer by the principal depending first on space available* in the language, and then based on the following criteria (in this order): 1) fluent speakers, 2) sibling, 3) waitlist, 4) parent preference in order of enrollment during the summer.
 - Students who qualify for early entrance to kindergarten (determined sometime in July-June) will follow the same procedure as other students who enroll at JSIS during the summer (see previous bullet).
- **If enrolled once the school year has started (September – June):**
 - Parents will have the opportunity to give a language preference for their child.
 - Language assignment will then be made by the principal who will consider the following factors: 1) space available*, 2) fluent speakers, 2) sibling, 3) waitlist (through September), 4) the particular needs within the different classes.

Students Entering at FIRST GRADE

- **If enrolled at JSIS prior to June 1st for the upcoming school year:**
 - Parents of children who have received confirmation from district of enrollment at JSIS for 1st Grade will receive a JSIS welcome letter and a language preference form.
 - Parents submit language preference form to JSIS office by the deadline indicated on the form indicating: language preference, if child has a sibling at JSIS, if fluent speaker of language.
 - Early June, those who marked fluent speaker will be contacted for a language fluency interview by JSIS teacher to determine fluency as native or near native speakers.
 - Members of the JSIS Building Leadership Team (staff, parents) meet mid-June to assign student to language. We do this by:
 1. First determining space available in each language. Assignment to language at first grade depends on space available in the language.
 2. Assigning students who passed the interview for fluent speakers (space permitting*).
 3. Assigning siblings to same language (space permitting*).

4. Lottery: We draw names and assign remaining students based on recorded preference (space permitting*).
- **If enrolled at JSIS during the summer (June 1 – August 31):**
 - School staff (when back from summer vacation) will contact families to identify language preference.
 - Language assignment will then be made at the end of the summer by the principal depending first on space available in the language*, and then based on the following criteria (in this order): 1) fluent speakers, 2) sibling, 3) waitlist, 4) parent preference in order of enrollment during the summer.
 - **If enrolled once the school year has started (September – June):**
 - Parents will have the opportunity to give a language preference for their child.
 - Language assignment will then be made by the principal based on the following factors: 1) space available*, 2) fluent speakers, 3) sibling, 4) waitlist (through September), 5) the particular needs within the different classes.

Students Entering at 2nd – 5th GRADE

- **School District Policy for students entering from 2nd – 5th grade states:**
Students in grades 2-5 who live in the JSIS attendance area must meet grade-level language proficiency requirements (determined by the school) in order to be assigned to JSIS (students in grades K-1 do not have any language requirements and will be assigned to JSIS without testing). They will be initially assigned to B.F. Day, the linked non-language immersion school. If they would like to attend JSIS, they are referred to the school for language testing. If the school determines they are eligible for assignment, they will be reassigned to JSIS.
- **Fluency interview required for enrollment**
 - Family first submits enrollment packet for JSIS at the SPS Enrollment Center.
 - The Enrollment Center will initially enroll the student at BF Day, our non-language immersion linked school.
 - The Enrollment Center will then refer the family to JSIS to request a language fluency interview.
 - If the child passes the fluency interview for that grade level, a school staff member will inform the family and then contact the Enrollment Center to approve enrollment. The child will then be enrolled at JSIS and in the language for which the child passed the fluency interview.
 - If the child does not pass the fluency interview, a school staff member will inform the family and then contact the Enrollment Center who will maintain the original enrollment for the linked school, B.F. Day.

* If there is not space available in the language of preference and thus the child does not get assigned to her language of preference, the child will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which she is assigned if requested by parent. The waitlist will be maintained through the end of September of that school year. After September 30th, students will not be permitted to change languages.